

b) Stream enterers definitely born into samsaric existence seven times who [in their final rebirth] have the physical basis of a human being

They are stream-enterers (1) who newly attained the result of stream-enterer in this life, (2) who have not yet attained the irrevocable cessation of the first type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, (3) who will take fourteen rebirths in the Desire Realm, and (4) who will become foe-destroyers during the last of those fourteen rebirths as human beings. Therefore, in this life these stream-enterers are celestial beings of the Desire Realm and during the subsequent fourteen rebirths they will alternate between rebirths as humans and as celestial beings of the Desire Realm, i.e. they will take seven pairs of rebirths of a similar type: celestial being/human, celestial being/human, and so on. In their last life they will be human and thus attain the result of foe-destroyer with the physical basis of a human being.

(II) Stream-enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times

Stream enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times (*ma nges pa'i rgyun zhugs srid pa lan bdun pa ba*) are stream enterers (1) who newly attained the result of stream-enterer in this life, (2) who have not yet attained the irrevocable cessation of the first type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, and (3) who will not definitely take fourteen rebirths in the Desire Realm, seven of which as humans and seven as celestial beings.

Examples of *stream-enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times* are stream-enterers (1) who in this life newly attained the result of stream enterer, (2) who have not yet attained the irrevocable cessation of the first type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, (3) who will take only eleven rebirths, and (4) who will become foe-destroyers during the last of those eleven lives. The reason for why they are able to attain liberation during the eleventh and not the fourteenth rebirth is that they are of greater mental faculty and thus able to remove afflictive obstructions faster than *stream-enterers definitely born into samsaric existence seven times*.

Stream enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times can also be categorized into:

- a) Stream enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times who [in their final rebirth] have the physical basis of a celestial being
- b) Stream enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times who [in their final rebirth] have the physical basis of a human being

a) Stream enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times who [in their final rebirth] have the physical basis of a celestial being

Stream enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times who in their final rebirth have the physical basis of a celestial being and who will take, for instance, only eleven rebirths before they become foe-destroyers are stream-enterers (1) who newly attained the result of stream-enterer in this life, (2) who have not yet attained the irrevocable cessation of the first type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, (3) who will only take eleven rebirths in the Desire Realm, and (4) who will become foe-destroyers during the last of those eleven lives as celestial beings of the Desire Realm. Therefore, in this life these stream-enterers are celestial beings of the Desire Realm and during the subsequent eleven rebirths they will alternate between rebirths as humans and as celestial beings of the Desire Realm. In their last life they will be celestial beings of the Desire Realm and therefore attain the result of foe-destroyer with the physical basis of a celestial being of the Desire Realm.

b) Stream enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times who [in their final rebirth] have the physical basis of a human being

Stream enterers not definitely born into samsaric existence seven times who in their final rebirth have the physical basis of a human being and who will take, for instance, only eleven rebirths before they become foe-destroyers are stream-enterers (1) who in this life newly attained the result of stream enterer, (2) who have not yet attained the irrevocable cessation of the first type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, (3) who will only take eleven rebirths in the Desire Realm, and (4) who will become foe-destroyers during the last of those eleven lives as human

beings. Hence, in this life these stream-enterers are human beings and during the subsequent eleven rebirths they will alternate between rebirths as celestial beings of the Desire Realm and as human beings. In their last life they will be human beings and thus attain the result of foe-destroyer with the physical basis of a celestial being of the Desire Realm.

ii. Stream-enterers born from type to type

Stream-enterers born from type to type (*rgyun zhugs rigs nas rigs skye*) are Hinayana Aryas (1) who are special abiders in the result of stream-enterer, (2) who newly attained the result of stream-enterer in this life, (3) who temporarily or irrevocably eliminated the third (small-big) type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, and (4) who will take two or three rebirths of a similar type within the Desire Realm, during the last of which they will attain the result of foe-destroyer.

Hence *stream-enterers born from type to type* abide on an uninterrupted path that serves as the temporary or irrevocable antidote to one of the different types of innate afflictions because they are special abiders in the result of stream-enterer.

They have temporarily or irrevocably eliminated the first three types of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. Some may have also temporarily or irrevocably eliminated the fourth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.

Furthermore, *stream-enterers born from type to type* will take two or three rebirths 'of a similar type' within the Desire Realm, during the last of which they attain self-liberation. Here, 'of a similar type' means that they will take either two or three rebirths as human beings or two or three rebirths as celestial beings of the Desire Realm.

Please note that Vasubhandu states in his ***Auto-Commentary on the Abhidharmakosha*** that there are *no stream-enterers born from type to type* who have temporarily or irrevocably eliminated the fifth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. The reason is that, if hypothetically there were *stream-enterers born from type to type* who had temporarily or irrevocably eliminated the fifth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, they now would be abiding on the uninterrupted path which temporarily or irrevocably eliminates the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. They now would be abiding on the uninterrupted path which temporarily or irrevocably eliminates the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm because they are special *stream-enterers born from type to type* and because they would have already temporarily eliminated the fifth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.

If they were presently abiding on the uninterrupted path which temporarily or irrevocably eliminates the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, a moment later they would attain the path of release that achieves the temporary or irrevocable *cessation* of the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm and would thus achieve the result of once-returner. But as explained below, once-returners are Hinayana Aryas who return, i.e. take rebirth in the Desire Realm only once, whereas *stream-enterers born from type to type* are characterized as Hinayana Aryas who take rebirth in the Desire Realm at least two or three times. Therefore, there are *no stream-enterers born from type to type* who have eliminated the fifth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, for otherwise they would also eliminate the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm in this lifetime and thus take only one more rebirth in the Desire Realm.

However, someone might argue that some *stream-enterers born from type to type* may have temporarily eliminated the fifth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing and are now abiding on the first supramundane uninterrupted path of the path of meditation which irrevocably eliminates the first type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm but not the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.

Someone else might say that there may be stream-enterers born from type to type who have temporarily eliminated the fifth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm *after* reaching the path of seeing and are now abiding on the fifth supramundane uninterrupted path that irrevocably eliminates the fifth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm but not the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.